

C++ OBJECT-ORIENTED CONCEPTS

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The prime purpose of C++ programming was to add object orientation to the C programming language, which is in itself one of the most powerful programming languages.

The core of the pure object-oriented programming is to create an object, in code, that has certain properties and methods. While designing C++ modules, we try to see whole world in the form of objects. For example a car is an object which has certain properties such as color, number of doors, and the like. It also has certain methods such as accelerate, brake, and so on.

There are few principle concepts that form the foundation of object-oriented programming:

Object:

This is the basic unit of object oriented programming. That is both data and function that operate on data are bundled as a unit called as object.

Class:

When you define a class, you define a blueprint for an object. This doesn't actually define any data, but it does define what the class name means, that is, what an object of the class will consist of and what operations can be performed on such an object.

Abstraction:

Data abstraction refers to, providing only essential information to the outside world and hiding their background details ie. to represent the needed information in program without presenting the details.

For example, a database system hides certain details of how data is stored and created and maintained. Similar way, C++ classes provides different methods to the outside world without giving internal detail about those methods and data.

Encapsulation:

Encapsulation is placing the data and the functions that work on that data in the same place. While working with procedural languages, it is not always clear which functions work on which variables but object-oriented programming provides you framework to place the data and the relevant functions together in the same object.

Inheritance:

One of the most useful aspects of object-oriented programming is code reusability. As the name suggests Inheritance is the process of forming a new class from an existing class that is from the existing class called as base class, new class is formed called as derived class.

This is a very important concept of object oriented programming since this feature helps to reduce the code size.

Polymorphism:

The ability to use an operator or function in different ways in other words giving different meaning or functions to the operators or functions is called polymorphism. Poly refers many. That is a single function or an operator functioning in many ways different upon the usage is called polymorphism.

Overloading:

The concept of overloading is also a branch of polymorphism. When the existing operator or function is made to operate on new data type it is said to be overloaded.